

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims shall replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the instant Application.

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Previously presented). A process for preparing polyacrylate hotmelt pressure-sensitive adhesives from polymers formed from
 - a) a comonomer mixture comprising
 - a1) 55% - 99% by weight, based on component (a), of acrylic acid and/or acrylic esters of the formula:
$$\text{CH}_2 = \text{C}(\text{R}^1)(\text{COOR}^2),$$
where $\text{R}^1 = \text{H}$ or CH_3 and R^2 is an alkyl chain having 1 - 20 carbon atoms,
 - a2) 0 - 30% by weight, based on component (a), of olefinically unsaturated monomers having functional groups selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, sulfonic acid groups, ester groups, ether groups, anhydride groups, epoxy groups, amide groups and amino groups, or having aromatic, heteroaromatic and/or heterocyclic groups,
 - a3) 1% - 15% by weight, based on component (a), of acrylate or methacrylate monomers having at least one functional group which is capable of reacting with the base generated by a photobase generator b), with or without a catalyzing compound,
and

- b) 0.01% - 25% by weight, based on the overall comonomer mixture, of at least one photobase generator b

where said photobase generator b) is incorporated into the comonomer mixture by mixing or copolymerization and where the solvent-free polymer or the polymer substantially freed from solvent, with the photobase generator incorporated therein, is coated, in a hotmelt process, onto a backing, and during or after coating is irradiated with UV light, thereby generating a base photochemically, and the composition is subsequently crosslinked thermally by the reaction of at least component a3) with the base.

6. (Previously presented). The process of Claim 5, wherein solvent, if present, is removed with heating under reduced pressure.

7. (Previously presented). The process of Claim 5, wherein the polymer is placed onto a film of water, with subsequent transfer from the film of water to the backing material, the water optionally contributing to the crosslinking of the pressure-sensitive adhesive.

8. (Previously presented). The process of Claim 5, wherein said UV irradiation takes place during coating.

9. (Previously presented). The process of Claim 5, wherein the polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive on the backing material is irradiated with UV light over its full area and subsequently heated, for the purpose of thermal crosslinking, to a temperature of at least 80° C.

10. (Previously presented). The process of Claim 5, wherein structured polyacrylates are prepared by performing a structured crosslinking by irradiating the polymer coating with ultraviolet light in such a way that only certain regions of the polymer mixture are exposed to the UV radiation.

11. (Previously presented). The process of Claim 10, wherein the polymer coating is irradiated with ultraviolet light through a perforated mask.

12. (Previously presented). The process of Claim 10, wherein the polymer coating is irradiated with ultraviolet light through a film whose surface has regions of different UV light transparency, whereby certain regions of the polymer mixture are exposed to different intensities of UV radiation.

13. (Currently amended). Pressure-sensitive adhesive tapes and strips coated on one or both sides with the polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive prepared by the process of Claim 4-5.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Previously presented). The process of Claim 9, wherein said temperature is up to about 100°C.

18. (New). A pressure sensitive adhesive prepared in accordance with the process of Claim 5.

19. (New). The pressure-sensitive adhesive of Claim 18, wherein said alkyl groups consist of 4 - 9 carbon atoms.

20. (New). The pressure sensitive adhesive of Claim 18, wherein said monomers a1) are selected from the group consisting of n-butyl acrylate, n-pentyl acrylate, n-hexyl acrylate, n-heptyl acrylate, n-octyl acrylate, n-nonyl acrylate, lauryl acrylate, stearyl acrylate, behenyl acrylate, and their branched isomers.

21. (New). The polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive of Claim 18, wherein the monomers a3) are selected from the group consisting of glycidyl methacrylate, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid and 2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate.